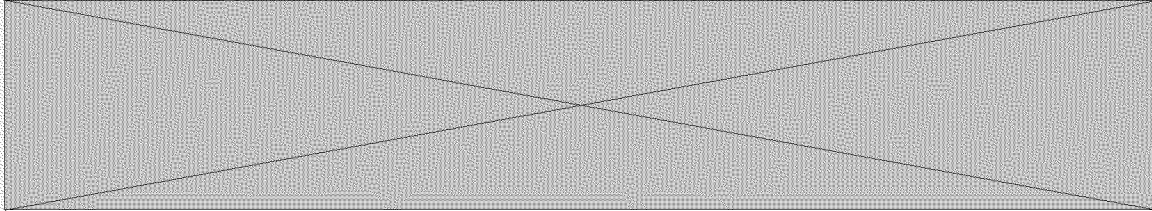


**To:** Pfeifer, David[pfeifer.david@epa.gov]  
**From:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
**Sent:** Wed 1/8/2014 5:12:41 PM  
**Subject:** MPCA releases wild rice research reports



## MPCA releases wild rice research reports

On Monday afternoon, MPCA released the results of the individual experiments/monitoring that make up the components of the Wild Rice Sulfate Standards study. The reports are available on the MPCA's FTP site at <ftp://files.pca.state.mn.us/pub/tmp/wildRice/>.

The study consists of parallel research efforts (study components) conducted by groups of scientists at the University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and the Twin Cities under contract with the MPCA. Data collection was completed in December 2013 and is documented in individual reports from the contractors.

Some of the reports include information about the sulfate or sulfide concentration(s) at which effects on wild rice were observed; however, it would be premature to conclude that those concentrations are directly comparable to the wild rice sulfate standard. Each Study component uses a different approach to examine how sulfate might affect wild rice. The results of each component must be analyzed and integrated with the other components before any recommendations can be made about the standard.

During January and February 2014, MPCA staff will integrate the results; analyze the data as a whole; and review existing monitoring data, other relevant scientific studies/information, and the original basis for the wild rice sulfate standard to determine if a change to the standard is warranted and, if so, what it should be. The MPCA will release preliminary recommendations by the end of February 2014.

If we determine that a change to the standard is supported by the science, any proposed change would be adopted into Minnesota's water quality standards rule (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7050) in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Administrative Procedures Act and would require the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A summary document that overviews the Study and identifies MPCA's next steps over the next two months is available on the FTP site and also the MPCA's web page for the wild rice sulfate standard: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/ktqh1083>.

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The mission of the MPCA is to protect and improve the environment and enhance human health.

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